

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

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TO AMEMBASSY ROME
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UNCLAS STATE 039218

ROME FOR FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO, SHUM

SUBJECT: WOMEN IN FAO

1. THE UN'S GENERAL RECOGNITION OF THE ROLE WOMEN CAN PLAY IN DEVELOPMENT AND THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN HAS NOT BEEN GOOD AND FAO IS NO EXCEPTION. OF THE PROFESSIONAL STAFF IN HEADQUARTERS, REGIONAL OFFICES, AND IN THE FIELD, WOMEN COMPRISED ONLY 7.2 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL AS OF JUNE 1977. IN ALL OF 1976, THERE WERE NO PROMOTIONS OF WOMEN PAST THE P-4 LEVEL. ADDITIONALLY, UNTIL RECENT YEARS MUCH TOO LITTLE ATTENTION WAS GIVEN TO WOMEN IN FAO FIELD ACTIVITIES OR TO WOMEN AS AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS IN INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAMS.

2. WE HAVE BEEN PLEASED, HOWEVER, TO NOTE DIRECTOR-GENERAL UNCLASSIFIED

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SAOUMA'S EVIDENT CONCERN OVER THESE FAILURES AND HIS COMMENDABLE DETERMINATION TO REDRESS THEM. IN BOTH HIS SPEECH TO THE 19TH FAO CONFERENCE AND HIS JANUARY 6, 1978, ADDRESS TO THE FAO STAFF HE NOTED THESE PROBLEMS AND PLEDGED HIS BEST EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THEM. PERHAPS MORE SIGNIFICANT WAS HIS PREVIOUS BULLETIN OF OCTOBER 14, 1977, (NO. 77/57) ENTITLED "EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN THE SECRETARIAT," IN WHICH HE DISCUSSED THE ISSUE IN DETAIL, ORDERED THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CERTAIN CORRECTIVE MEASURES,

AND INSTRUCTED ADG SKOUFIS TO MONITOR PROGRESS AND REPORT TO HIM PERIODICALLY. THESE SECRETARIAT INTENTIONS ARE BUTTRESSED BY A GROWING LIST OF CONFERENCE AND COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS URGING MORE ATTENTION TO AND PARTICIPATION BY WOMEN IN FAO ACTIVITIES.

3. GIVEN THE SECRETARIAT'S COMMITMENT, WE HOPE FODAG WILL CONTINUE TO ACTIVELY ENCOURAGE FAO ON THIS MATTER. THIS CAN PROBABLY BEST BE ACCOMPLISHED BY INFORMING ADG SKOUFIS OF OUR INTEREST IN THE PACE AND DEPTH OF THE REFORMS ORDERED BY SAOUMA. A CONTINUING DIALOGUE COULD BE USEFUL. TO EXTENT POSSIBLE WE HOPE WE MIGHT RECEIVE BIENNIAL REPORTS ON THESE REFORMS. VANCE

UNCLASSIFIED

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